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# League of Red Cross Societies

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES COLLECTION

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization comprising the National Societies of the following countries : ALBANIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHILI, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DANZIG, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBURG, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERSIA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROUMANIA, SALVADOR, SIAM, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED STATES, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA.

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XVth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE,
Tokyo, October 1934.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE JAPANESE RED CROSS, Tokyo
where the XV[th] International Red Cross Conference will meet

# A Message from Osaka

It is a pleasure and an honour for us to know that the Red Cross Societies of the world have decided to hold their International Red Cross Conference in the Far East, and are sending their distinguished delegates to discuss in our Capital questions associated with the realization of two noble ideals: Peace and Humanitarian Service.

We Japanese are particularly interested in Red Cross work because we are proud to think that the Japanese people have become thoroughly imbued with humanitarian principles, under the guidance of the benevolent Sovereigns who have successively ruled our nation for three thousand years.

Osaka is the centre of commerce and industry in Japan. Our city, which is surrounded by ports and rivers, was in ancient times called Naniwazu. In the 3rd century, an imperial palace was for the first time located here. Osaka Castle, one of the outstanding sights of the city, was built 350 years ago by Toyotomi-Hideyoshi.

Osaka has developed flourishing commerce, industry and foreign trade, having been blessed with excellent facilities for transportation between the city and the inland sea. Since the construction and improvement of Osaka harbour, the urban population of the city has grown until it now numbers 2,650,000.

The total population of Greater Osaka is over 3,800,000. Our people are naturally very deeply interested in things international for the reasons above mentioned, and they have always been generous supporters of all Red Cross activities. The Osaka Red Cross Hospital, established in 1907 in the heart of the City, is but one evidence of the liberal and public spirit of the citizens of Osaka. The reconstruction of the Hospital has cost more than four million Yen. It has now become one of the largest, most attractive, and most modern hospitals in Japan. It is admirably equipped in every respect, and contains 830 beds.

There are also in the city several Red Cross dispensaries and highway ambulance centres giving first aid in accidents.

The people of Osaka, because of the past they have had in working for public health and for the wellbeing of the community, are most anxious to have the delegates attending the coming Conference visit their city and the various institutions there, which are devoted to the betterment of society.

We, representing the Osaka people, are eagerly looking forward to welcoming the deegates here, and take great pleasure in extending our most cordial invitation to them. It is our earnest prayer that the delegates will honour us by accepting this invitation.

SHINOBU AGATA, Governor of Osaka Prefecture.

HAJIME SEKI, Mayor of Osaka.

KATSUTARO INABATA, Chairman, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Latvian Tribute to League.

On the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of its foundation, the League of Red Cross Societies has received from the Latvian Red Cross nurses a gratifying tribute in the form of an illuminated parchment which, translated, reads as follows:

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

" Fifteen years of persistent effort to mitigate suffering, fifteen years of achievement the full range of which will become more apparent as time goes on, fifteen years of an activity which has projected its beneficent rays all over the world—how inadequately these words describe the eminently humanitarian work accomplished by the League of Red Cross Societies!

" Hailing with enthusiasm the progress achieved by the League in the multifarious fields embraced by its programme, the nurses of Latvia take this opportunity of offering to the League a tribute of their admiration and profound gratitude for the unfailing and generous support which has always been accorded them. '

(Signed) MARTA CELMINS,
Chairman, Latvian Red Cross Nurses' Association.

## Hurricane and Flood in Salvador.

Early in June a hurricane of unusual violence swept across Central America, reaching its maximum of velocity in the Republic of Salvador, where thousands of lives are stated to have been lost. The hurricane, which lasted several days and was followed by widespread floods, is described as the worst for many years. The greater part of the Salvadorian territory has been completely devastated, while, in the neighbouring state of Honduras, 500 people are reported to have been drowned in the floods. Avalanches rushing down the sides of volcanoes have wiped out entire villages. It is feared that thousands have been drowned through the overflowing of rivers and lakes. Lakes Guija and Coatepeque, the largest in Salvador, have risen 30 feet. With the railways running to the coast swept away, Salvador's coffee trade, which runs into thousands of tons annually, must be regarded as virtually destroyed this year.

A cable received by the League Secretariat from the Salvadorian Red Cross on June 12th confirmed reports from other sources of the extent of the damage caused. The message stated that the situation was most critical adding that no accurate estimate of the losses caused by the catastrophe could yet be made.

The League, acting jointly with the International Red Cross Committee, immediately complied with the request of the Salvadorian Red Cross that this disastrous state of affairs should be at once notified to other national Societies. Cables went out on June 12th to the Red Cross bodies which might be able to give direct co-operation to the Salvadorian Society, and the remoter Societies have also been advised.

Up to June 21st, the following donations had been notified:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| American Red Cross | $2,500 | |
| Lithuanian — | 750 | French frs |
| Mexican — | 1,000 | Pesos |
| Netherlands — | 2,500 | French frs |
| Spanish — | 10,000 | " |
| Venezuelan — | $ 200 | |
| Yugoslav — | 5,000 | dinars |

Prompt action has also been promised by the Colombian Red Cross.

## Junior Red Cross Membership.

The following table shows the Junior membership, as at June 1934, of the different national Societies having organized Junior Red Cross sections. The total increase, since the last figures were published in March 1932, is 1,349,487. The countries mainly responsible for this increase are: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Hungary, India, United States, Norway and South Africa. An interesting feature of this table is that the Turkish Junior membership appears for the first time.

| COUNTRIES | MEMBERS |
|---|---|
| Albania | 1,200 |
| Argentina | 5,000 |
| Australia | 90,000 |
| Austria | 140,000 |
| Belgium | 55,000 |
| Brazil | 10,000 |
| Bulgaria | 133,791 |
| Canada | 267,115 |
| Chili | 57,859 |
| China | 10,734 |
| Colombia | * |
| Costa Rica | 5,000 |
| Cuba | * |
| Czechoslovakia | 500,757 |
| Danzig | 1,000 |
| Denmark | 2,551 |
| Dominican Republic | * |
| Ecuador | 1,020 |
| Estonia | 10,056 |
| France | 25,250 |
| Germany | 49,287 |
| Great Britain | 23,000 |
| Greece | 220,000 |
| Guatemala | * |
| Hungary | 73,543 |
| India | 252,941 |
| Italy | 1,725,000 |
| Japan | 1,976,960 |
| Latvia | 20,785 |
| Lithuania | 2,200 |
| Mexico | * |
| New Zealand | 4,800 |
| Norway | 15,460 |
| Panama | 800 |
| Paraguay | 13,700 |
| Peru | * |
| Poland | 85,000 |
| Portugal | 669 |
| Roumania | 17,941 |
| Salvador | * |
| Siam | 101,975 |
| South Africa | 25,000 |
| Spain | 22,500 |
| Sweden | 11,800 |
| Switzerland | 1,800 |
| Turkey | 25,000 |
| United States | 7,629,437 |
| Uruguay | * |
| Venezuela | * |
| Yugoslavia | 325,360 |
| Total: | 13,941,291 |

Complete membership figures are not available in the case of the countries marked with an asterisk.

## International Relief Union.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Iraq notified the League of Nations Secretariat on June 12th, 1934, of the adhesion of Iraq to the Convention of July 12th, 1927, and to the Statutes of the International Relief Union.

On June 16th, the League of Nations was officially notified of the ratification by the Cuban Government of the Convention and Statutes of the Union.

These two accessions bring the total number of States members of the Union to twenty-nine.

## Indian Earthquake.

Contributions from abroad on behalf of the victims of the Bihar earthquake still continue to be received at the headquarters of the Indian Red Cross. Among recent donations received is one of $300 from the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

All the sums sent to the Indian Red Cross, in response to the joint appeal launched by the international Red Cross bodies, have been turned over to the Viceroy's Fund for earthquake relief.

## Chinese Floods.

In the appeal sent out by the International Red Cross some months ago on behalf of the Yellow River flood sufferers, mention was made of the fact that gifts of rice would be particularly welcome. Last January, the Siamese Red Cross, acting on this suggestion, sent a consignment of 2,000 sacks of rice to the Chinese Red Cross. The League Secretariat has now been notified that a second consignment of 700 sacks was sent to China from the same source early in May.

## Loss to American Red Cross.

We regret to announce the death in Washington, on May 30th, of Mr. Frank J. Brunner, editor of the AMERICAN RED CROSS COURIER, at the age of 65.

A native of New York, Mr. Brunner carved out for himself a brilliant career as a journalist, and, at an age when most men must be content with a subordinate position in that exacting profession, had secured the coveted post of city editor of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE. Prior to this, he was the owner of a newspaper in Connecticut. Seventeen years ago he left his native city in order to gather fresh laurels in Washington as chief of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

When this paper was sold, a few years back, the American Red Cross made a bid for Mr. Brunner's services, and was fortunate in securing his collaboration as editor of its review. Under his direction, the publications policy of the American Red Cross underwent a complete transformation, and there are few Red Cross magazines in the world today possessing so wide a popular appeal as the COURIER.

Mr. Brunner will be succeeded by Mr. Herbert C. THOMPSON, a former correspondent of the Associated Press in Europe, who, for the past nine years, has been a member of the Public Information Staff at Red Cross headquarters in Washington.

## Lady Northcote : A Life of Service.

The death of the late Lady Northcote, who passed away on June 1st at her home in London, has robbed England of a great lady and the British Red Cross of one of the most distinguished and venerated members of its Council and Executive Committee. Her loss will be most keenly felt by the British Junior Red Cross Committee of which, for the past ten years, she had been Chairman. She exercized a tremendous influence on the development of the movement in Great Britain, having from the first realized its importance in forming the character of the rising generation.

Lady Northcote's long life was a shining example of single-hearted service to others. When, in 1899, Lord Northcote arrived in India to take up his appointment as Governor of Bombay, plague had been raging for two years, and racial feeling was running high. Undaunted by the risks of such a proceeding, the Governor's wife ventured forth once a week, in the early hours of the morning, to visit the homes of the plague sufferers and converse with the inmates. When the time came for her husband to leave India, her name had become a by-word for kindness and charity. In Australia too, where Lord Northcote was next appointed as Governor-General, Lady Northcote won the love and gratitude of all classes for her compassionate and self-sacrificing work.

Though Lady Northcote continued, after her return to England, to devote herself to good works, this brought her but little before the public, for "limelight" was never congenial to her. She maintained her interest in the British Red Cross, and especially in the Junior work, to the very last.

## How the Red Cross is Helping Lepers.

The Red Cross in several countries is showing increased activity on behalf of the victims of leprosy, that dreadful disease which, from the earliest days of recorded history, has inspired such wide-spread fear and horror. While scientists pursue their researches into the causes of leprosy and methods for its cure, the Red Cross is devoting itself to the social aspects of the disease.

The Red Cross in the Belgian Congo and in Siam has tried treating early cases in special clinics, without separating the patient from his family. During the year 1932-33, upwards of six hundred incipient lepers were cared for in the Siamese Red Cross clinic at Bangkok. More advanced cases, necessitating the isolation of the patient, are placed by the Congo Red Cross in segregation camps, where the inmates can till the soil or follow a trade and, in fact, continue to lead a normal life.

The French Red Cross has erected, at the Orofaro leper settlement (Tahiti) a recreation hall to serve as a playground, meeting place and cinema for the lepers inhabiting the settlement.

In the Philippine Islands, where leprosy is endemic, the Red Cross has assumed responsibility for the medico-social work for lepers formerly undertaken by the Anti-Leprosy Association. Two leper bureaux have been opened for this purpose, one at Red Cross headquarters in Manilla, the other at Cebu, and a social service department has been installed at Culion, the largest leper colony in the Archipelago.

## AUSTRALIA

**The Year's Work in Victoria**

The peace-time activities of the Australian Red Cross Society are being well maintained. In the State of Victoria, the Red Cross Auxiliaries have been the means of providing substantial gifts in money and kind for civilian hospitals and other public health institutions. The value of gifts to hospitals in the metropolitan area alone, in 1933, amounted to £9,100. This includes profits made at canteens and kiosks conducted by voluntary workers at hospitals. Country district hospitals and bush nursing centres have also been assisted very generously by local Red Cross branches and auxiliaries. At some centres, the surrounding Red Cross branches hold group conferences with the object of arranging a systematic supply of linen and other equipment for the district hospital.

The Blood Transfusion Service conducted by the Victorian Division has proved increasingly valuable as a life-saving agency. The average monthly calls upon it have risen to over 18, and every public hospital in Melbourne has benefited.

In South Australia, the Children's Hospital Canteen has maintained its good work of providing waiting mothers and child out-patients with refreshments. The Society has continued to co-operate with the British Medical Association on the Joint Committee for Combating Infantile Paralysis.

**Junior Developments**

The report of the Junior Red Cross is an inspiring record of progress. The membership in Australia now exceeds 90,000. Outstanding in the records is the rapid development of the Junior Section in Tasmania. The most remarkable activities are the continued maintenance by the New South Wales Juniors of the three homes for sick children of soldiers; the erection by the South Australian Juniors of a cottage by the sea for crippled and delicate children, and the provision for a second year of an almoner, by Victorian Juniors, for the after-care of infantile paralysis sufferers. By their own efforts, the Juniors raised in New South Wales £3,462, and in Victoria £2,164. In South Australia, a Red Cross Health Week was arranged by the Juniors with great success and resulted in nearly £300.

Elementary First Aid and Home Nursing classes have been organized in a number of schools with gratifying results. In several instances, girls who have qualified in this training have entered hospitals with a view to adopting nursing as a profession.

International school correspondence is growing in volume, and 199 links have been formed between Australian Junior groups and those in twentytwo other countries.

**Royal Patron for Red Cross**

Through His Excellency the Governor-General, the Central Council of the Australian Red Cross has been informed that H. R. H. The Prince of Wales has consented to become Patron of the Society.

## BELGIUM

**General Assembly**

The general assembly of the Belgian Red Cross was held on May 6th in Brussels, with Professor Nolf, President of the Society, in the chair. After paying a moving tribute to the memory of the late King Albert, Patron of the Belgian Red Cross, the assembly heard the report on the year's work submitted by M. Dronsart, the Director-General, who announced the formation of thirteen new branches and an increase of 2,000 in the number of ambulance workers.

During 1933, Red Cross ambulances carried 11,500 patients. Now that no Belgian commune is more than 25 miles distant from a Red Cross motor ambulance unit, the Central Committee considers that the organization of this service has attained its maximum development.

Marked progress has been made in the field of rural hygiene. The method adopted is the family health course, consisting of twelve lessons. These are given, even in the smallest villages, by trained nurses under medical supervision.

Another growing field of Red Cross activity is first aid in factories. In obedience to the Royal Decree of January 1932, the Belgian Red Cross has organized courses for industrial first aid workers, and 1,150 certificates were issued last year.

Among the new developments announced at the meeting, probably the most interesting is the Blood Transfusion Service recently set up by the Society. Blood transfusion is on the way to becoming a world-wide Red Cross activity.

At last year's general assembly it was decided to make no statutory change in membership fees but to appeal for voluntary increases. That this decision was a wise one is proved by the fact that, in 1933, the income from membership dues was 80,000 francs higher than the previous year, although the number of members remained about the same.

The Junior Red Cross Section has continued to develop, and now has a membership of 60,000.

## BELGIAN CONGO

**A Thriving Branch**

The autonomous Branch of the Belgian Red Cross in the Congo is one of the most highly developed colonial Red Cross organizations in the world. During 1933, all the local committees without exception extended their sphere of activity, notably in the field of maternity and child welfare, the training of native nurse-midwives and male nurses, and the combating of social diseases.

The medical aid post at Viadana now comprises twelve dispensaries which, in 1933, gave 266,447 consultations and treated 44,023 patients. The twelve dispensaries administered by the Wamba post treated 42,972 natives and gave 274,998 consultations.

The leper settlement at Pawa consists of three agricultural villages covering an area of 113 acres, and inhabited by 834 lepers. With the aid of funds received from Belgian scientific institutions, the Red Cross is undertaking in that region an exhaustive study of the epidemiological and curative aspects of leprosy.

## BRITISH EMPIRE

**Southern Rhodesia** During the year 1933, the trained personnel of the Southern Rhodesian Branch of the British Red Cross Society gave increased attention to social service, in the form of Child Welfare Clinic work, the making of small garments, the making of clothes for the sick poor, Nursing Service for the sick poor, visiting lonely children in hospital, etc. First Aid Classes and Health Talks are now a regular institution; men, women and boys have attended lectures given in schools and at the Public Health Laboratory by leading surgeons and physicians. Thirty-five women members of Voluntary Aid Detachments went under canvas in September last, and passed their inspection with credit.

Three fund-raising entertainments were held during the year, and the Branch now has a sum of £80 in hand, after giving £10 to the newly-organized Salisbury Committee of the Southern Rhodesian Branch and £5 to a newly-established Convalescent Fund. Out of this fund it is proposed to build a Convalescent Home for poor patients.

**Nyassaland** The Nyassaland Branch of the British Red Cross Society was formed in September 1933, with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hubert W. Young, as Patron, Lady Young as President, and Dr. H. M. Shelley as County Director. The British Red Cross has made a grant of £100 towards the initial expenses. It is proposed to form Divisions at six points in Nyassaland, and to constitute Indian and Native, as well as European, Detachments. One of the first objectives is the provision of a motor ambulance with a rota of voluntary drivers.

**Swaziland** To meet the urgent need for maternity and child welfare work in Swaziland (South-East Africa), the Branch of the British Red Cross Society formed in 1932 has, with the help of an initial grant from headquarters in London, engaged the services of a European nurse-midwife for the training of native girls. A further grant was made last year from London to permit of the continued training of these girls who, in turn, will serve with the European nurse-midwife after completing a three years' course of nursing training in the Mission Hospital at Bremersdorp. In this way, it is hoped to station native midwives at outposts under the Red Cross, and gradually to cover the whole country with a maternity and child welfare service.

The new Branch aims also at stimulating the local population in Red Cross work. A small committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Resident Commissioner of the Protectorate, and Vice-Presidents have been appointed at each Government post where there is a settlement of Europeans, with the object of instituting classes in First Aid, Home Nursing and Infant Welfare. At Bremersdorp, courses in each of these subjects have been held for Europeans, and it is hoped to form small Red Cross Detachments in each centre.

A beginning has also been made with Junior Red Cross in two of the small European schools, and efforts are to be made during the coming year to bring native children into the movement.

## CANADA

**Annual Report** A noticeable feature of the year's work has been the increasing extent to which local government bodies have asked the Red Cross to act as their agent in carrying out various forms of relief work. In this way, Red Cross branches have supplied extra nourishment to children and invalids, and have organized distributions of garments to the needy in their areas. In addition, they have operated hostels and other forms of accommodation for single unemployed men, where nearly 750,000 meals and 300,000 nights' lodging have been provided.

The year has seen a substantial development of the Red Cross nutrition service. Visiting Housekeepers, who care for a family during the temporary illness or absence of the mother, and the students of the Red Cross Home Nursing Classes, have both welcomed the nutrition teaching, the basic idea of which is to teach families in reduced circumstances or in receipt of relief how to purchase and prepare their food most economically and advantageously.

Owing to the prolonged depression, Red Cross assistance to disabled ex-service men and their dependants has required to be given on a much larger scale than at any time since the war, some 250,000 individuals having been helped. A club for about 120 disabled ex-service men was established in May, 1933, at Toronto, where comfortable lodgings and good meals are provided at a reasonable rate.

A remarkable increase in Junior Red Cross membership took place during the year. In the Canadian elementary schools almost 25 per cent of the pupils are enrolled. In some provinces, from 85 to 90 per cent of all the elementary school pupils are Juniors. The total active membership is 268,000.

**First Aid on Highways** In conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Association and the Canadian Automobile Association, the Canadian Red Cross Society has completed arrangements for the opening of twenty-one first aid posts on the principal motor highway between Toronto and Montreal, a distance of 360 miles. The posts have been established at strategic points, about ten miles apart. The cost of the experiment is being borne, in equal parts, by the three organizations sponsoring the scheme.

The persons to whom the posts have been entrusted have taken the St. John Ambulance Association course in First Aid and have agreed to care for victims of any accident in their vicinity on a voluntary basis. The equipment of each post comprises a stretcher, a blanket, and a first-aid chest containing 100 assorted sterilized dressings, two dozen assorted bandages, tourniquet, one set of splints, adhesive plaster, tincture of iodine, spirits of ammonia, surgical scissors and safety pins.

The position of the posts is indicated by a triangular sign in white, red and black, bearing the inscription: "First Aid Post". The cost of establishing a post works out at approximately $600.

For the first year or so, the scheme will be considered purely as a demonstration, but, if it is found that it is meeting a genuine need, it will eventually be extended very much more widely.

## CHILI

**A Friend in Need** The following details are culled from an article, which appeared in a recent issue of the Chilian Red Cross review over the signature of Dr. Ostornol, vice-president of the Society.

The efforts of the Chilian Red Cross extend to every field—and they are many in these days of economic depression—in which there is suffering or distress to be alleviated. The 86 local and regional committees of the Chilian Red Cross are pursuing a programme of health and social service in all the towns and villages of the country. In some sparsely-populated areas the inhabitants are obliged to depend solely on the Red Cross for the medical care of which they may stand in need.

In the remote villages the Red Cross ambulance detachments render incalculable service to the population by conveying the sick to the towns for treatment. The public spirit manifested by the members of these detachments—for the most part working men—is praiseworthy in the extreme; they do not hesitate to assume personally the costs involved in their ambulance work or even sometimes to sacrifice several days' wages in order to serve the Red Cross.

The rôle of the Chilian Red Cross is not confined to the medical care of the sick in its dispensaries; it also extends to their homes in the form of social service and child welfare. Feeding bottles are distributed to needy mothers in the milk kitchens attached to the Red Cross clinics, while meals are provided for thousands of destitute families and for under-nourished schoolchildren.

The Red Cross dental service has already treated more than 50,000 schoolchildren. Advice is given to mothers on how to bring up their children, and there are canteens for needy mothers. Popular hygiene is furthered by the provision of baths and free hair-dressing establishments for the poor.

In the populous suburbs of certain of the large towns, such as Valparaiso, the Red Cross is the only organization existing to which the public can apply in case of emergency.

## DANZIG

**Change of Statutes** The Danzig Red Cross Society has recently introduced a number of reforms into its Statutes, adopting as model those of the German Red Cross Society.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Constitution of new Central Committee** The central committee of the Dominican Red Cross was recently reconstituted and now comprises the following officers:

Dr. Fernando A. Defillo, President.
Dr. Wenceslao Guerrêro, Vice-President.
Dr. Wenceslao Medrano, Vice-President.
Señor Generoso Nuñez, Treasurer.
Señor Andrés Julio Espinal, Secretary-General.

## FINLAND

**Annual Report** The report of the Finnish Red Cross for 1933 has appeared together with the annual report of General Mannerheim's Infant Welfare Association.

In the year under review, 2,620 persons were treated as in-patients by the Red Cross hospital and over 20,000 were treated as out-patients. The X-ray Department dealt with 2,271 patients, taking 3,294 skiagrams.

First Aid on higways has been organized in co-operation with the Finnish Automobile Club and, during 1934, first aid stations will be provided along the road from Helsingfors to Petsamo. The placards on the roads bear the signs of both the Red Cross and the Finnish Automobile Club.

Welfare work in distressed areas has included the provision of work in return for funds supplied, and the feeding and clothing of the children whose parents were out of work. Altogether 18,332 homes (90,126 persons—35,523 adults and 54,603 children) have been helped.

Farm clubs have been organized in 57 districts, their membership consisting of 3,385 girls and 2,158 boys. The net profit was 559,152 Finnish Marks. This welfare work was terminated in the autumn of 1933 after the committee responsible for it had assured itself that the time was ripe for winding up its activities.

Under the heading "International Relations" reference is made to a visit, organized by the Finnish Red Cross, and paid to various hospitals in Helsingfors by 40 nurses belonging to the Estonian Red Cross.

## FRANCE

**General Assembly of the S.S.B.M.** The general assembly of the S.S.B.M. (the senior of the three societies composing the French Red Cross) was held on June 3rd in the main lecture hall of the Sorbonne under the chairmanship of M.Gaston Doumergue, Prime Minister.

Beside M. Doumergue on the platform were the Marquis de Lillers, president of the S.S.B.M., a representative of the President of the Republic, and representatives of different Ministries.

After listening to the report on the Society's activities, M. Doumergue addressed the meeting, saying that it was his duty to express the gratitude of the French nation for the work of the S.S.B.M. He spoke warmly of the activities of the Red Cross in time of peace, and urged the Society to continue to expand its sphere of action.

**General Assembly of the A.D.F.** The meeting of the A.D.F., held on May 27th, was honoured by the presence of Senator Justin Godard, former Minister of Health, and M. Louis Marin, Minister of Public Health, both of whom laid particular stress on the value of the work done by the Red Cross in time of peace. The report on the year's work described the activity of the A.D.F. in France and in the French Colonies, where the Association is endeavouring to inculcate the Red Cross spirit in the younger generation and to raise the standard of nursing.

**General Assembly of the U. F. F.**

M. Louis Marin, Minister of Public Health, was also present at the annual meeting of the U. F. F. (French Red Cross) on June 10th, held under the chairmanship of Dr. Rouvillois, director of the Health Service at the War Ministry. Special prominence was given in the report to the progress achieved in the training of nurses, which is the principal activity of the Union. Dr. Rouvillois expressed warn appreciation of the services rendered by the U. F. F. to the War Ministry and offered suggestions for increased usefulness.

## GREAT BRITAIN

**Annual Assembly**

H. R. H. The Duke of York took the chair at the statutory meeting of the Council of the British Red Cross Society held in London on May 16th last, at which the annual report and audited accounts for the year 1933 were approved and adopted.

In the absence of H. R. H. The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, the reports of the Voluntary Aid Detachments were presented by Dame Beryl Oliver, who informed the assembly that the present number of Detachments is 820, with an aggregate personnel of 20,587. The number of Men's Detachments now stands at 175, with 3,722 members enrolled.

It was announced that the next Red Cross Ball in aid of the Society's Central Clinic for Rheumatism will take place on November 28th, and will be honoured by the patronage of T. R. H. The Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess Royal, and other members of the Royal Family.

**Telling the Public**

In its annual report for the year 1933, the British Red Cross Society expressed particular appreciation of the assistance and support given it by the Press. During May (the month in which Red Cross Day falls), news items relating to the Red Cross in the daily papers of the United Kingdom reached a total of 2,465, as against 810 in May 1932. This fact appears to denote a very real awakening of public interest in the Red Cross.

This is confirmed by the results of Red Cross Day, 1933. Thirty-seven County Branches observed the Day, as against thirty the previous year, and the financial results showed an increase of over £4,000.

Red Cross posters and material were shown at four health exhibitions in the provinces, at a teachers' conference in Wales and during a post-graduate course for Health Visitors at the College of Nursing. Speakers were sent to address meetings in London and in seven English counties, the College of Nursing, and King's College, London.

## HUNGARY

**Spreading the Gospel**

With a view to arousing interest in the Junior Red Cross in schools where no group has yet been organized, complete sets of the Junior magazine for the years 1929 to 1933 have been donated to 238 elementary and secondary schools. In many cases, this has led to the desired result.

## INDIA

**Annual Assembly**

The annual general meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society was held this year on March 22nd at Viceregal Lodge, New Delhi, under the honorary chairmanship of His Excellency Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India. The attendance of delegates from provincial branches was particularly good.

In view of the earthquake and of the subsequent appeal made by the Viceroy, it was deemed inopportune to issue a second appeal of an all-India nature, so plans for Red Cross Week were modified. No nation-wide appeal was issued, as had at first been contemplated, but it was left to Provincial and State Branches to decide whether or not to carry on with their propaganda weeks.

**Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign**

In its report for the year 1933, the King George Thanksgiving (Anti-Tuberculosis) Fund—administered by the Indian Red Cross—states that three new pamphlets were issued during the year in the Urdu and Hindi vernaculars, while two existing pamphlets were revised and translated into these two tongues. The titles of these publications are as follows:

"Prevention of Tuberculosis".
"Prevalence and Causation of Tuberculosis".
"Tuberculosis in Schools in India".
"Home Treatment of Tuberculosis".
"Why does Tuberculosis run in Families".

Two sets of picture charts—six on "causes" and six on "prevention"—were also issued, and have been in great demand by the provincial committees for their anti-tuberculosis propaganda work.

Interesting details are given in regard to the work of the fifteen provincial and state committees affiliated to the Fund. The Madras committee has formed 17 district committees, bought two copies of a new film, prepared a set of coloured posters, issued 24 pamphlets and arranged a series of twelve radio lectures in co-operation with the Madras Corporation. It is planning to conduct a tuberculosis survey in a rural area. The Mysore committee employs a doctor and nurse for home visiting, and has established a solarium for tubercular children. The Tuberculosis Association of Bengal held a post-graduate course of lectures on tuberculosis, and employs several health visitors in Calcutta. The Bombay committee has engaged two medical men to tour the Presidency, give lectures and collect statistics. Shikarpur (Sind) has engaged a lady health visitor and Delhi has appointed voluntary medical practitioners to do house-to-house visiting in each of the 16 wards of the city. The Punjab committee is carrying out a tuberculosis survey in Lahore City, and the Lucknow Anti-Tuberculosis League is extending its propaganda activities to Agra, Cawnpore and Benares.

This report serves to show that the work of the Fund has passed into a definitely constructive stage, and constitutes a remarkable record of progress in a comparatively short period of time. The Fund is to be congratulated on having built up so complete a programme of anti-tuberculosis work over such a wide area in the space of three years.

**Importation of Films** The Government of India has acceded to the request of the Indian Red Cross that films imported by that Society for educational purposes should be exonerated from customs duties and should not require to be submitted to the Board of Film Censors for examination and certification.

## LATVIA

**Teachers' Conference** A conference of teachers was held at the headquarters of the Latvian Junior Red Cross in Riga on February 19th last under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Gailits, President of the Junior Section. Some 100 persons attended, and messages of goodwill were received from the Minister of Education and the Director of Public Schools.

It was resolved at this meeting to reduce the Junior membership fee to 50 santims, and to one lat for co-operating members. It was also agreed that Juniors, on leaving school, should be enrolled as co-operating members so that they might be trained to become useful members of the adult Red Cross later on. A resolution was passed to the effect that schools should be invited to submit their views regarding the Junior Red Cross magazine.

All the delegates were unanimously agreed that international school correspondence constitutes a valuable educational element, and provides a stimulus in geography and history lessons.

It was announced at the meeting that the nurses attached to the Latvian Red Cross health centres have been instructed to visit Junior groups. Three hundred groups will be connected with health centres, while the remainder will continue, as hitherto, to be served by the Junior Red Cross nurse.

## NEW ZEALAND

**Peace-time Activities** The New Zealand Red Cross, constituted as an independent national society in 1932, has now assumed entire control of Red Cross peace-time activities in New Zealand, work for disabled ex-soldiers being carried on by a Joint Council composed of an equal number of representatives of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John.

During 1933, Red Cross nurses carried on fine work in many districts. Not only have they continued their instructional work, but have identified themselves with the various local relief committees in helping to mitigate the distress arising out of the acute depression under which the Dominion has been labouring. The Red Cross nurses in Taranaki devoted half their time, in the district Medical Office of Health, to the work of medical instruction of children attending schools in the district.

Every opportunity was taken of bringing the Red Cross prominently before the public on Red Cross Day, May 12th. Articles were prepared for the Press and for broadcast purposes, and a four-page folder issued, giving information on important aspects of Red Cross work.

During the year, an earthquake occurred in the Wairoa district. The Society was fortunate in having a Red Cross representative on the spot, who was able to assist in the organization of relief.

## PERSIA

**Constitution of Central Committee** With a view to establishing closer relations with the Government and health authorities, the Persian Red Lion and Sun resolved, at its last meeting, to enlarge its Central Committee. With the sanction of His Majesty the Shah, under whose High Patronage the Society is placed, the following nominations have been made:

PRESIDENT: H. H. Prince Foroughi, Prime Minister.

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: H. E. Dr. Emir Khan Aalam, Founder of the Society and Royal Physician.

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: H. E. Hakim ed-Doulet.

TREASURER GENERAL: H. E. Hussein Khan Ala, Director of the National Bank, former Minister of Persia to Washington and Paris.

DIRECTOR GENERAL: The Chief of the Army Medical Service.

MEMBER: H. E. Mahmoud Khan Djem, Minister of the Interior.

## POLAND

**"Mothers Day"** On Sunday, May 27th, the Juniors of Warsaw celebrated their annual "Mothers' Day". The manifestation took place in the Philharmonic Hall, which had been decorated with the flags of all the Junior Red Cross circles of the capital. A large audience attended the ceremony, and the Press was well represented.

The proceedings opened with a speech by Madame Roszkowska, chairman of the Warsaw regional committee, after which delegates of Junior Circles paid tribute to motherhood, assuring mothers of the gratitude and filial respect with which all Juniors regard them. Flowers and a commemorative brochure were distributed to all the mothers present. The ceremony closed with a programme of music, songs and dances executed by members of the Junior Red Cross.

## SOUTH AFRICA

**A Growing Society** The report of the South African Red Cross Society for the year 1933 shows marked development in almost every branch of activity. Instruction in First Aid, Home Nursing and other recognized subjects of Red Cross teaching is in constant progress, and the number of persons receiving such training during the year was the highest yet recorded. The total of certificates issued last year, viz., 3,604, exceeds the previous record total by 740. The number of natives employed in the Transvaal mines who underwent courses of instruction in First Aid shows a considerable advance over the previous year.

The Ambulance Detachments, of which there are now ten, performed voluntary first aid duty at football grounds, race meetings and other sporting events and public functions. They assisted in the organization of mine ambulance competitions on the Witwatersrand, and a number of the members have undergone instruction in Life Saving. The number of Voluntary Aid Detachments has risen to 64, with a total membership of over 2,000.

The Natal Branch is paying considerable attention to the after-care of tuberculosis sufferers, and is represented on the Anti-Tuberculosis Association. A large amount of anti-malaria literature was distributed during the year, and the Branch co-operated with the Durban Public Health Department in organizing a ''Health Week''.

The Orange Free State Branch organized and maintained a Red Cross Hospital on the show ground during Education Week, last September, when several thousand school-children visited Bloemfontein.

In addition to the organization of ambulance competitions for workers in the Witwatersrand mines, the Transvaal Branch continues to give attention to the establishment of First Aid Posts on certain main roads. The posts serve an extremely useful purpose, as several hundred cases are dealt with annually by the volunteer workers in charge of them. The Branch co-operated during the year with the Children's Aid Society in conducting a clinic in Johannesburg for the medical and dental treatment of coloured children. Over 4,000 attendances were registered last year.

**From Junior to Senior**

Junior Red Cross Links have now been formed in all four Provinces of the Union, and the Executive is considering a scheme whereby closer co-operation will be brought about between the Junior Links in the schools and the Senior Voluntary Aid Detachments, in order that facilities may be created for members leaving Links to be enrolled in an intermediate corps and contact maintained until they are able to enrol in the Senior movement. The present membership exceeds 25,000, and the Directors of Education and the Education Departments of the Union have repeatedly expressed their hearty approval of the movement.

The Links have identified themselves with a large number of activities in the communities in which they have been established. Many of them organized Health Weeks last September, when they secured the co-operation of local bodies and parents, and conducted propaganda campaigns. Several Links have requested permission to arrange similar fucntions during 1934.

## SWITZERLAND

**Collaboration in First Aid**

The report of the Swiss Samaritan Alliance for the year 1933 points with keen satisfaction to the excellent relations existing between the Alliance and the Swiss Red Cross. In the matter of funds for their respective activities, their mutual collaboration is particularly helpful. The Red Cross makes an annual grant to the Alliance which, in return, endeavours to recruit members for the Society and subscribers for its monthly bulletin. It also undertakes the sale of Red Cross almanacs, which constitute one of the Society's principal sources of revenue.

## UNITED STATES

**Praise for the League**

As the guests were assembling for the banquet held in connexion with the American Red Cross Annual Convention on April 10th last, news came through from Paris of the award to the League of Red Cross Societies of the Grand Prix d'Honneur of the French and International Life-Saving Federations, ''for conspicuous service in the relief of human suffering by the 58 Societies composing the League''. The announcement was made to the delegates in the course of the dinner by Mrs. August Belmont, a member of the American Red Cross Central Committee, and was greeted with delighted applause.

The League came in for a good deal of comment —mainly flattering—in the course of the after-dinner speeches. The first mention was made by Mlle Lucie Odier, of the International Red Cross Committee, who, in retracing the progress of the Red Cross movement since its foundation seventy years ago, emphasized the part played by the League in helping to build up new Societies and in opening up new avenues of development.

It was then the turn of Mrs. Henry P. Davison to narrate how the League emerged from the ashes of the Great War, bringing a new message of hope to the hearts of tortured humanity.

She was followed by Mrs. William K. Draper, Chairman of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross, who described the genesis of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and the taking over of the League's International Nursing Courses as the basis for the permanent memorial.

**Enlarged Scope for Juniors**

Juniors throughout the country will come to the assistance of Red Cross volunteer workers when the new programmes of community service are launched with the reopening of the schools next autumn. During the summer holidays, committees of Juniors will draft plans for helping relief workers and others engaged in Red Cross chapter activities. Selected members will be assigned to receive telephone messages, to do stenographic and filing work, to classify newspaper clippings, to prepare scrapbooks, and to assist in packing garments, distributing plants and flowers to invalids, writing letters for illiterates, and reading to invalids.

**Junior Projects for Summer**

In many parts of the country, programmes of service during the summer holidays are being planned by school children belonging to the Junior Red Cross. The members of one group have resolved to earn 25 cents each for the support of tonsil and other examinations in a children's clinic. In Boston, many Juniors of high school age will serve as playground helpers. The members of a group in Indiana will make toys this summer, from scraps remaining over from the Red Cross chapter's supply of government cotton cloth, for distribution to children in hospitals. A Californian group is organizing swimming classes under the tuition of authorized Red Cross life-saving instructors. Many aged persons and widows in Louisiana will have their gardens tended this summer by local Juniors. A New York group is planning to arrange an outdoor benefit party for blind children.

# THE LESSONS OF THE BIHAR EARTHQUAKE

By NORAH HILL
Organizing Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society

AFTER a disaster of the magnitude of the Bihar earthquake, it is easy for the looker-on to sit down and criticize. Of course there were many things left undone which might have been done, many precious moments which were let slip. On the other hand it is still easier not to criticize, for when one comes to think of it, it is surprising that there was not a complete breakdown and amazing how rapidly relief workers got busy. I do not intend to adopt either the attitude of a carping critic or a silent admirer. I write what follows as a student of disaster relief in many countries. I have helped to administer relief on the steppes of Russia during the famine and I have seen at first hand the wonderful machinery which the American Red Cross has evolved to deal rapidly with its crises. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good and we in India can learn much from this, the greatest disaster which has befallen us in our own life-time.

First of all Indian scientists can learn something from this disaster. They can appreciate whether their seismographs are sufficiently up-to-date and whether their recording of the shock and transmission of the information to the public was satisfactory in every respect. The scientific data collected following the earthquake should give valuable information regarding Bihar's mineralogical deposits.

Secondly, the local Government can trace out some lessons in dealing with sudden natural catastrophes and can pass them on to other local Governments. Take, for instance, the outstanding achievements of aeroplanes in the earthquake area. It was by aeroplane that the first survey of the damage was done, by aeroplane that officials kept in communication with Patna, and by aeroplane that mails were delivered when all else failed. Yet there was only one Provincial Government in India which before the earthquake, owned an aeroplane. There is no landing ground in Patna or in any part of the worst affected area, so that army machines were useless. India needs more light aeroplanes and better landing grounds. Even when the value of aeroplanes had been proved, only two were regularly employed. A fleet of a dozen would have done six times the work at a time when every minute was being counted by those watching for their rescuers.

Another point which deserves attention is the importance of appointing a Relief Commissioner early. The Bihar Government did not realize the necessity for such an appointment until some weeks after the earthquake and then appointed an I. C. S. man on leave in England so that his arrival was still further delayed. The appointment of a Relief Commissioner invested with certain powers to regulate and guide the work of voluntary organizations, as well as to co-ordinate the relief work of Government departments, would have prevented a certain amount of confusion and overlapping which was bound to occur otherwise when from all over India helpers and stores were being rushed to the earthquake area. This necessity for an official to co-ordinate voluntary relief work is no new idea. In the Russian famine, of which I had personal experience, Dr. Nansen was given authority by the Soviet Government to take charge of all foreign relief and it was the Nansen office in Moscow which apportioned selected areas to each relief organisation and directed the supply of stores so that there should be no overlapping. It stands to reason that if every relief organisation is left to choose its own field of activities, there is bound to be congestion in some areas and neglect in others.

Finally, the voluntary relief organisations themselves have much to learn from their Bihar experiences. First and foremost, I should put the important lesson that self-contained units are more valuable than individual workers or isolated gifts of stores. The Bihar Government early sent out an appeal for such self-contained units with their own doctors and other personnel, their own tents, their own stores and their own rations. Although the food supply did not actually break down, there was great shortage and anxiety, and the influx of many fresh mouths to feed would have been a disaster, had they not brought their own rations. The St. John Ambulance unit at Mongyhr was a good example of such a selfcontained unit which arrived, put up its tents and set to work without any fuss.

Again, we learnt that women doctors, nurses and social workers should accompany such units. There is a tendency in India, when a crisis arises, to shove the women behind closed doors and send men only for relief work. Such an idea is no doubt born of chivalry but let us face the issue practically. Most Indian women object to being ministered to by men in hospital or, for that matter, in their own homes. In Mongyhr many women never came out and revealed their injuries until they heard that women had accompanied the

St. John Ambulance unit from Calcutta. Only when a women's ward was opened by these ladies could they be persuaded to enter hospital for treatment.

There are certain lessons to be retained regarding the avoidance of wastage of stores. The best principle to follow in store distribution is undoubtedly the army principle of ''Lines of Communication''. The relief organisation must have its base depôt (the Indian Red Cross one was established in Patna very shortly after the earthquake), its lines of communication and its distributing centres at ''the front''. i. e. the devastated area. I am inclined to think that the most effective distribution of stores is that which remains in the hands of one organization (e. g. the Red Cross) throughout. The organization must have sufficient volunteer personnel not only to man its depôts but also to supervise actual distribution. A busy Government official who is suddenly overwhelmed with bale upon bale of blankets is tempted to distribute them without sufficient investigation, simply because he hasn't the time or staff to investigate. Someone may ask: why investigate, when all are in need? The answer is, to prevent bribery and corruption and the selling of relief stores for profit. One relief organisation which was worried by the same men coming back again and again to claim relief, hit upon the expedient of shaving a small spot on the head of each recipient of a blanket as he received it. The next day, the report states, every inhabitant turned up with a shaven head! The just distribution of relief is a task which in America is entrusted to experienced social workers but in India, while we take infinite trouble to raise money and provide stores, on the whole we are extremely careless in distributing them and are content to entrust this work to menials.

The Bihar earthquake has brought to light a new problem—the problem of giving relief to respectable middle-class families who feel embarrassment in accepting charity. This problem largely remains unsolved. While peasants and labourers crowded round the relief centres with outstretched hands, the better-class traders and the planters who had formerly owned prosperous little farms retired to their ruined bungalows and wondered how on earth they were going to face the next few years. The Governments' announcements regarding loans, and the reiteration of the principle that all alike, Europeans and Indians are entitled to relief, has slightly eased their apprehensions but their future prospects are black. How can we help such as these, and will the funds be sufficient to meet such calls?

Lastly, we learnt a good deal regarding publicity in the raising of funds, and the learning of it was costly. Every student of psychology knows that at times of stress the people are swayed by mass emotions. The response made to an appeal depends less on the object than on the manner of the appeal, unpleasant though this truth may be. The success of H. E. the Viceroy's Fund has been wonderful considering the neglect of the publicity factor, but I do not doubt that it would have been greater still if psychological factors had been studied. No one appears to have been placed in charge of publicity for the Fund and even when an official from the Information Department went to Bihar, we never saw what he wrote and were told that it had been sent to the English papers! Repeated enquiries for long failed to elicit any complete statement regarding the expenditure of the Fund, and we had to content ourselves with the occasional crumbs which fell from the Bihar Government's council table. The leading Indian newspapers themselves, probably owing to difficulties of communications, showed an astonishing lack of initiative in collecting earthquake news. I know of no newspaper which thought it worth while to maintain a correspondent in the earthquake area. The best and most consistent publicity has been done by left-wing organs which have lifted up their voice against the Government. Their description of earthquake woes have not always been reliable but at least they have told us SOMETHING. One cannot blame newspapers for ceasing to take an interest in earthquake appeals. The people who should supply publicity items are the people who are trying to raise funds. Good publicity invariably produces the required reaction. The human mind is a delicate instrument which requires skilled manipulation. Let me advise students of relief organization never to belittle the publicity factor.

The above remarks are made in a critical spirit because I believe that criticism on such an occasion may help us to avoid errors in future. I should not, however, like to end this article on a discordant note. Looking back over the last few months, the outstanding impression is of the overwhelming goodness of human nature, of the urge to help others in distress which moves us all at such times and which has resulted, in the case of the Bihar earthquake, in a remarkable spontaneous movement of practical sympathy embracing the whole world and burying all past distinctions of politics, race or creed. Surely out of this evil much good has come.

# A SUMMARY OF NURSING HISTORY

by Lucy SEYMER.

II

## THE REFORMS OF THE 19th CENTURY

With the nineteenth century begins the era of serious and continuous reform in the nursing profession. Among the earliest of such reforms was the improvement brought about in the 'thirties by two Roman Catholic orders, the Sisters of Mercy and the Irish Sisters of Charity. Both communities started work in Dublin and steadily gained in numbers and in importance ; they now have control of many hospitals in different parts of the world.

In 1836 Pastor Fliedner revived, at Kaiserswerth on the Rhine, the ancient order of Deaconesses and, in the hospital attached to the establishment, gave them instruction in nursing as part of their training. In a few years the Deaconesses took over the nursing in a number of German hospitals; their "motherhouses" were opened all over Germany and as far afield as Smyrna and Beirut, while institutions on the Kaiserswerth model were established in the United States, Switzerland, Holland and Norway. In England, during the decade 1840-1850, the Institute of Nursing Sisters was started (1840) by Elizabeth Fry (better known for her work in prisons), and several sisterhoods began in the English church with nursing as their main activity, though their members received very little training. As examples may be cited the Park Village Community (1845), another society in Devonport, the All Saints Sisterhood, and the even more important institution (1848) called St. John's House, of which the nurses received their training in certain London hospitals. During its period of greatest activity St. John's House undertook all the nursing in King's College Hospital (1856 to 1885), in various other London hospitals and also from 1865 to 1875 in the Galignani English Hospital in Paris. Several sisterhoods of the Protestant Episcopal church likewise nursed in hospitals in the United States. In the field of psychiatric nursing the labours of Dorothea Dix in the United States, and of various physicians and philanthropists in Europe were soon to ameliorate mental hospitals and therewith the training of mental nurses.

The latest and possibly the most interesting of the pre-Nightingale attempts to improve nursing was the foundation and endowment in 1859 at Lausanne, Switzerland, by the Comtesse Agénor de Gasparin, of the school called La Source. This school was the first training ground for nurses at which no vows were imposed and there was no suggestion of belonging to a community. The pupils were given a liberal education and an adequate salary.

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence in 1820, and passed the first years of her life in comfortable and cultured surroundings, where she received an education in every way superior to that of most girls of her day. From an early age she took an interest in nursing and in hospitals and even tried to induce her family to allow her to work in one. That they refused — at an epoch when Dickens could describe his Betsy Prig as "a fair specimen of a hospital nurse"—must seem to us now very natural. But their refusal did not lessen her determination to get any training that was obtainable. During a winter spent in Rome in 1847, she studied many institutions there, and in 1851 she spent three months at Kaiserswerth. Two years later she worked for a short time with the Sisters of Charity in Paris, and then became the Superintendent of the "Establishment for Gentlewomen during Illness" in London. While still acting as Superintendent, the national work for which she is best remembered claimed her. In March, 1854, the Crimean War broke out and, by the autumn, stories of gross neglect in the hospitals began to reach England. Spurred by a particularly forcible letter in the Times, Florence Nightingale offered her services to her old friend Sidney Herbert (then Secretary of War) by the same post that he wrote asking for her help. As a result she went within a week to the East to direct the nursing, and with forty nurses (ten of whom were Sisters of Mercy from Bermondsey, and six sisters from St. John's House) reached Scutari on November 4th, 1854. From that moment for nearly two years she toiled without ever sparing herself.

The results she achieved seem almost miraculous. She and her little band of nurses were confronted on arrival with a quantity of patients that would have discouraged any ordinary woman. Even with normal equipment the task of nursing such masses of men

would have been difficult; but the gloomy accounts in the TIMES were only too true, and the hospitals lacked even the barest necessities. Furthermore, Florence Nightingale had to contend with the opposition of officials to whom the novel introduction of women nurses into military hospitals appeared an unwelcome innovation. She started at once on the double task of improving the condition of the hospitals and the comfort of the patients, and of reforming the nursing. She quickly established a diet kitchen and a laundry in which she employed the soldiers' wives, and the material needs of the men she supplemented from a special fund. By her labours in these various directions the mortality was reduced in the following spring from 440 to 22 per thousand.

Later, Florence Nightingale started recreation huts and savings banks for the soldiers and, at her own expense, equipped a small house for medical research. She added to her already overwhelming labours by long reports and letters in which she kept Sidney Herbert in close touch with all that was going on. During her stay in the East she made three visits to the Crimea and, in spite of critical illness, greatly improved the nursing and hospitals there also. She finally returned to England in August 1856.

In the eyes of the world she had then finished her life's work, but in actual fact she had scarcely begun it. While she was still at Scutari her friends in England collected by public subscription a sum of about £44,000 —some £9,000 having been contributed by all ranks of the army. This money, called the "Nightingale Fund", was handed over to Florence Nightingale to found a school for training nurses. For two years after her return from the East, she was completely engrossed in official work for the government Commissions on Army Reform; but, in 1859, the committee of the Fund chose St. Thomas's Hospital, London, in which to inaugurate the new school. The Medical Officer was sympathetic, and the Matron, Mrs. Wardroper, who had already made great efforts to get better nurses, seemed peculiarly suited to be the leader of this pioneer undertaking. In June, 1860, the Nightingale School was launched with fifteen probationers. The "Nightingale Nurses" carried the improved training to other hospitals and the era of modern nursing began.

The first years of trained nursing coincided with a great revolution in medicine due mainly to two factors: the introduction of anæsthetics in the 'forties, and the discovery of germs by Pasteur in the 'sixties. The subsequent practical application of the germ theory by Lister fundamentally changed all hospital treatment, especially surgery and therewith surgical nursing. At this time there was a great movement towards social reform and many of its leaders in England were Florence Nightingale's personal friends.

Almost simultaneously with the founding of the Nightingale school another pioneer was maturing a plan that was destined, in its future development, to have great influence on nursing history. The pioneer was the Swiss philanthropist, Henry Dunant, and his plan was the creation of what is now known as the Red Cross. He was inspired in his task by having been, in 1859, an eye-witness of the terrible and unnecessary sufferings of the wounded after the battle of Solferino. He worked hard to interest governments in a scheme for preventing such horrors and, in 1864, at an international conference, the famous Convention of Geneva was signed. Under the terms of the Convention, National Aid Societies were formed and these soon affected nursing since the volunteer nurses, both men and women, enrolled in them were from the outset given a training. This instruction varied in quality and extent, but in German-speaking countries the Red Cross "Motherhouses" were early giving a conscientious training, as were also Red Cross Societies in other countries, such as Sweden and Hungary. This was the prelude to the important work in training nurses now done by the Red Cross in so many countries.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL NOTE. — Last month, Mrs. Seymer opened her series of articles on the History of Nursing by an erudite account of the evolution of methods of caring for the sick, from before the Christian era to the end of the 18th century. Although papyri and inscribed tablets show that the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians were by no means ignorant of medicine and public health — that ancient India could boast advanced surgery and elaborate hospitals, while the earliest-known laws of public and social hygiene saw the light of day in the Palestine of the Old Testament— the origin of nursing remains shrouded in mystery.

The first trace of nursing activity is found after the introduction of Christianity, when the care of the indigent sick became a sacred duty devolving, in all probability, on the Deaconesses and other organized church workers. By the end of the fourth century after Christ, the Order of Deaconesses had attained a very high degree of power and influence, and it is recorded that no fewer than forty were attached to the church of Saint Sophia in Constantinople in the seventh century. Practically until the advent of Florence Nightingale, the care of the sick was regarded as a religious rather than a lay responsibility. For many hundreds of years the members of religious and monastic orders gave the sick poor such nursing as the science of the day permitted. The Middle Ages saw the birth of such famous nursing orders as those of the Holy Spirit, St. Francis of Assisi, the Tertiaries of St. Dominic, the Béguines, and the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, many of which still exist to this day. The development of nursing came to a standstill during the latter part of the seventeenth and the whole of the whole of the eighteenth century, but the beginning of the nineteenth century brough the revival described in the above article.

# "SAFETY FIRST"

## BELGIAN RED CROSS WEEK, 1934

By EDMOND DRONSART, Director-General

ALARMED by the continually increasing number of deaths due to preventible accidents, the Medical Committee of the Belgian Red Cross decided to select as the theme for this year's Red Cross "Week": THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS. It is a lamentable fact that, out of 105,000 deaths recorded in Belgium in 1930, no fewer than 4,733 were due to such avoidable causes as road accidents, bathing fatalities, fire, asphyxiation, poisoning and electrocution. The mortality from such accidents is higher than that from all the infectious and epidemic diseases put together, with the exception of tuberculosis. It is no exaggeration to say that more than half of these lives might have been saved had the elementary rules of prudence been observed.

Thirteen violent deaths a day present a problem which, in the view of the Belgian Red Cross, demands urgent solution. Through the practice and teaching of hygiene, it has been possible to reduce to five thousand the annual mortality from epidemic disease which, in 1870, accounted for 25 to 30 thousand deaths. There seems no logical reason why the public should prove less amenable to propaganda directed to the prevention of accidents.

And what of the thousands who are injured in accidents, perhaps maimed for life? How much needless suffering, what waste of human capital might be spared if only the public could be taught that accidents can be prevented and that reasonable caution costs nothing.

The Belgian Red Cross resolved to leave no stone unturned during the "Week" to bring home to the public a realization of their responsibilities in accident prevention. For months before the opening—which was fixed to take place a fortnight before Easter—Red Cross headquarters were busy working out their plan of campaign. Willing helpers, doctors and hygienists, were roped in to prepare lectures, write articles for newspaper consumption, and compile pamphlets for distribution.

The aid of the authorities was solicited. The Ministries of the Interior and Hygiene, of Public Instruction, of Industry and Labour promised their support. The scholastic authorities and teachers joined in the movement. Unconditional co-operation was extended by the Government Health and Labour Inspection services, the Mines Corps, the Navy Department, the Medical Service of the State Railways, the Postal authorities, the Association of Belgian Industrialists, the Trade Union Council of Belgium, the National Firemen's Federation, the Farmer's Union, the Life-Saving Federation, the gas and electricity companies, and the large insurance concerns. The majority of these groups issued posters and pamphlets of their own, under the patronage of the Red Cross.

Each of the local Red Cross sections received detailed instructions from headquarters concerning the propaganda and practical demonstrations to be organized during Red Cross Week in the schools (in conjunction with the Junior Red Cross) and in public meeting places. The demonstrations recommended were the following:

Rescue of a person trapped by flames.
Demonstration of work of industrial rescue teams.
Rescue by firemen in a sham conflagration.
Treatment of asphyxiation: artificial respiration.
Evacuation of public buildings, schools, theatres, etc.
Fire brigade manœuvres.
Emergency treatment of burns.
Traffic signals and road-crossing in busy streets.
Utilization of gas stoves and gas fires.
Regulation of coal and wood stoves, showing rational methods of installing stove pipes.
Manipulation of electric lamps and bells.
Insulation of rescuer and rescued in cases of electrocution:
Swimming exercises.
Life-saving competition, resuscitation of the drowning, etc.

This programme was subsequently carried through with conspicuous success, thanks to the active participation of firemen, life-saving teams, rescue parties, etc.

The press accorded a more than usually favourable reception to our articles and announcements; it was remarked by journalists that the theme adopted for this year's campaign was more concrete than those of previous years, and was consequently more interesting for the newspaper-reading public.

It is too early yet to judge of the results; all work of an educational character is necessarily slow to bring forth fruit. But it may safely be affirmed that the counsels of prudence which have been kept before the Belgian public for years past have now been impressed upon them in so novel and vivid a form that it would be astonishing indeed if they failed to produce the desired effect. We have convinced waverers and given food for thought to the careless; new life has been imparted to the safety movement, and the active co-operation of many has been obtained.

The campaign initiated during Red Cross Week will be pursued throughout the year, and we shall expect, in course of time, to see its results in the form of a real reduction in the number of preventible accidents.

# A HEALTH MANUAL FOR SEAFARERS

On May 1st, 1924, the General Council of the League of Red Cross Societies passed a resolution urging the national Red Cross Societies to give attention to the health and welfare of seamen. This action was taken at the suggestion of the Norwegian Red Cross, which was the first of the National Societies to realize the importance of the problem and to give practical effect to a health programme for the benefit of seamen. At the present day, the Norwegian Society maintains no fewer than 21 dispensaries in different sea-ports (including beds for the sick, and baths), and 17 information bureaux where sailors can have their letters addressed, obtain advice on various subjects, and find help when needed. A Red Cross hospital ship— the VIKING— cruises alongt he northern coast of Norway during the greater part of the year. Following the example of the Norwegian Society, seamen's dispensaries have also been set up by the Red Cross in France, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, Sweden and U. S. S. R.

In 1926, the League and the Norwegian Red Cross organized at Oslo the First International Conference on the Health and Welfare of Seamen, under the patronage of His Majesty King Haakon. Thanks in a very great measure to the painstaking efforts of Colonel Jens Meinich, president of the Norwegian Red Cross, that meeting was an unqualified success.

One of the recommendations of this Conference proposed the compilation of a manual to enable ships' officers to treat cases of sickness or injury in the absence of a doctor. A standing international committee was accordingly set up to adapt for international use and translate into French a manual written by Dr. Engelsen and published by the Norwegian Red Cross.

This Committee is composed of representatives of the International Public Health Office, the Health Organization of the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, the International Union against Venereal Disease, the International Association of Mercantile Marine Officers, the American Social Hygiene Association, and the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway. The Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies undertook the actual work under the direction of the Committee, and the French edition of the Manual will appear in October. It comprises:

A preface by the French Minister of Mercantile Marine.

An introduction.

General considerations on hygiene, diet, treatment, transport of sick and injured.

A series of special chapters on treatment of injuries from accident and sudden illness.

A series of chapters on care of the sick in slow-developing maladies.

A chapter on messages by wireless telegraphy.

An alphabetical guide to symptoms.

An alphabetical index of medical terms in English, French, German, Italian, Norwegian and Spanish.

Copies of the manual may be obtained from the publishers: l'Agence Latine, 190, boulevard Haussmann, Paris (8e). Its price is 40 French francs.

The publication expenses have been generously met by Mr. T. E. Steen and Mr. Falkenberg, two distinguished members of the Norwegian colony in Paris. In addition to these two gentlemen, the Committee of Patronage is composed of the following members:

The President of the French Republic.

H. M. The King of Norway.

Col. J. Meinich, President of the Norwegian Red Cross.

The Norwegian Minister to Paris.

M. François Pietri, Minister of the French Navy.

M. William Bertrand, Minister of the French Mercantile Marine.

M. Louis Marin, French Minister of Public Health.

M. Justin Godart, Senator, former Minister of Public Health.

Dr. Madsen, president of the Health Organization of the League of Nations.

H. E. Mr. Ekstrand, director of the Social Section of the League of Nations.

Dr. Abt, director-general of the International Public Health Office.

Mr. Harold B. Butler, director of the International Labour Office.

Prof. Léon Bernard, president of the International Union against Tuberculosis.

Marquis de Lillers, president of the French Red Cross, vice-chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Vice-Admiral Grandclément, vice-president of the S. S. B. M. (French Red Cross).

Vice-Admiral Amet, secretary-general of the U. F. F. (French Red Cross).

Vice-Admiral Lacaze, member of the Administrative Council of the A. D. F. (French Red Cross) ; former Minister of the Navy.

M. Raoul Dautry, Technical Advisor to the French Cabinet; director-general of the State Railways; former vice-chairman of the Administrative Council of the Compagnie Générale transatlantique.

M. Rondet-Saint, of the French Naval Academy; director of the French Maritime and Colonial League; member of the Supreme Council of the Mercantile Marine.

Dr. Clerc, president of the Federation of Mercantile Marine Officers.

SECRETARIES:

M. A. Voigt Hansen, Insurance Expert, Paris.

Dr. R. Sand, Technical Counsellor of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The recommendation of the Oslo Conference has thus been carried out. The League hopes, in course of time, to see the Manual published in the languages of the other principal maritime countries, and trusts that this may be made possible through the collaboration of the national Red Cross Societies.

# THE IRAQ RED CRESCENT

By ARSHAD Bey al UMARI,

President of the Administrative Committee.

It is perhaps in a young kingdom like Iraq, more than in most countries in the world, that an institution such as the Red Crescent Society has almost unlimited scope of activity, and can be of real benefit to the community as a whole. Voluntary aid organisations in this country are, for one thing, practically unknown; for another, apart from the fact that Government assistance in the way of relief work is restricted by budgetary considerations, the government machinery of necessity moves slowly. It is consequently, on the occurrence of an emergency, of the utmost value to have a Society always ready to deal with the situation and alleviate distress.

The field of work of the Red Crescent here is wider than one is apt to imagine. The work of the Society is varied, and by no means easy; it calls for intelligent administration, in order that the help given may reach those who need it most.

The Iraq Red Crescent Society has, since its inception, discharged its difficult task with distinction. Recently, for example, a violent storm, with hailstones the size of chickens' eggs, wrought terrific havoc in the vast Euphrates area, reducing cultivated fields to waste land, rendering the cultivators homeless, and killing cattle and men.

A deputation of the Red Crescent immediately left Baghdad for the scene of the disaster. An adequate sum from the Society's fund was placed at the disposal of the deputation; but a difficult task confronted it in looking after those who were left homeless and with no means of subsistence. It needed patience, understanding and organisation.

The Iraq Red Crescent Society was founded in November 1931, with a membership numbering two hundred.

The Presidency was accepted by H. R. H. the Crown Prince, and the Vice-Presidents comprised all former Prime Ministers, and Lady Humphrys.

The then Amin Al Asimah (Lord Mayor of Baghdad) Arshad Al Umari, who is now Director General of Irrigation and Surveys was, and continues to be, Chairman of the Society. He has been admirably assisted by a Committee of leading gentlemen of the Capital; particularly excellent and noteworthy services have been rendered by Dr. Ibrahim Alussi, the first Secretary-General, and by Ibrahim Beg Shabander, who was originally Inspector-General and is now Secretary-General of the Red Crescent.

A branch of the Society has been inaugurated at Basrah to attend to welfare work in the port city. It is hoped that in the near future it will be possible to start a branch at Mosul, and in due course to extend the ramifications of the Society throughout the country.

The revenue of the Society is mainly derived from membership fees, lotteries, and public functions organised by the Society. Another source of income is through voluntary occasional contributions. The Red Crescent, by conducting a campaign of publicity, hopes to make itself better known to the entire public of Iraq, and in this way to attract and enlist further assistance and membership.

In these first years of its existence the Red Crescent of Iraq has provided relief measures in major disasters, including the Sulaimani floods, the desert drought, and the Assyrian troubles. The first emergency the Society met—the Sulaimani floods—was an extensive one. One had to be on the spot to realise the difficulties of the task. Torrential floods uprooted the plantations and swept away the dwellings that lay in their path. But the Red Crescent carried out its duty in a generous sprit and brought help to all those afflicted by the disaster.

It is not the object of the Society to confine the field of its activity to relief work alone. There is a great deal to be done in the direction of raising the standards of health in the country, and the Red Crescent has taken it upon itself to combat diseases, and to teach sanitation and hygiene generally, particularly in regard to Child Welfare work.

## The Women's Branch.

The Women's Branch of the Society was formed in February 1933 under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen. Lady Humphrys' whole hearted co-operation was a tremendous help in founding the women's branch. The Royal Princesses, and the ladies of the notable families of Baghdad, have worked with great enthusiasm, and the branch has proved itself of great use from the time of its inauguration.

Most naturally it gives its main attention to child welfare work. Here again Lady Humphrys' work was of great value. Due to her initiative and influence, the Violet Lady Melchett Infant Welfare Centre loaned the services of Miss Kathleen Austin, who came to Baghdad, and started courses in child hygiene and mothercraft in the society's building.

A special class was started at the Royal Palace in which the Royal Princesses participated. Miss Austin worked in these classes jointly with Miss Cecil Bligh who came, most generously, at her own expense. The Classes continued from November 1933 to June 1934: the subjects taught were:

1. First aid.
2. Home nursing.
3. Mother-craft.

The numbers attending the classes were 130. Sixty of these entered for, and passed, qualifying examinations in the subjects studied.

The Iraq Red Crescent Society, though it has been busy with problems of organisation and has had to respond to frequent appeals for funds on the occasion of big disasters, has not neglected to give attention to its essential function, as an auxiliary service to the medical authorities of the armed forces of the nation. With this aim in view it pressed strongly for the speedy adherence of the Iraq Government to the Geneva Conventions relating to wounded soldiers and prisoners of war. Now, the Government having adhered to these conventions and the law acknowledging officially the Iraq Red Crescent Society with the exclusive right to work throughout the national territories having been passed, the Society feels firmly established, and will devote its next efforts to the building of a centre for its many activities in peace and war. It will train nurses and voluntary workers, and establish a large store house for relief materials and medical necessities of every kind, so as to be ready to undertake work on a properly organised basis whenever required.

Our Society has been encouraged throughout this period of pioneering by the ever ready help of the International Red Cross bodies, and particularly through the welcome visit of a delegate of the League who, during his all too brief sojourn in Baghdad, gave us great assistance and stimulation.

*N.-B.* — Since the above article was written, the Iraq Government has signified to the League of Nations its adhesion to the Covenant and Statutes of the International Relief Union.

# LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS NOTES

**Exhibits for Tokyo** For the exhibition which is to be held in Tokyo in conjunction with the XVth International Red Cross Conference, the League has prepared a series of eleven canvases depicting the evolution of the Red Cross movement in the course of the past decade, and some of the more typical peace-time activities of the National Societies.

The task of interpreting these subjects in graphic form was entrusted to a talented Parisian artist, M. Henri Neveu, and to a young American painter resident in Paris, Mr. Stevens Wright.

Before despatching this material to Tokyo, the Secretary-General desired to submit it to the approbation of the Japanese Ambassador in Paris, and accordingly arranged a "private view" on June 26th, followed by tea. In addition to His Excellency the Ambassador, the manifestation was attended by members of the Board of Governors present in Paris, by leaders of the French Red Cross and by representatives of the international Press.

**The Tokyo Conference** During August and September Mr. Ernest J. Swift, Secretary General, Dr. René Sand, Technical Counsellor, Mr. L. de Gielgud, Under-Secretary General, and M. G. Milsom, Director of the Junior Red Cross Division of the League Secretariat, will leave for Japan, via the United States, in order to attend the XVth International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo.

In compliance with a request from the Japanese Red Cross, Mr. de Gielgud will be in Tokyo from early September onward, in order to co-operate with the Japanese authorities in the final phase of the preparations for the Conference.

Mr. Swift, Dr. Sand, and M. Milsom are scheduled to address audiences on the international work of the Red Cross in various American cities on their way across the United States.

Advantage is to be taken of the presence of several members of the Secretariat in the Far East to visit different National Societies in that part of the world after the Conference. The Secretary General will return to Europe via the Philippine Islands, the Netherlands East Indies and India; Dr. Sand will travel through a section of China; and Mr. Milsom's itinerary has been arranged so as to enable him to confer with the leaders of the work of the French Red Cross in French Indo-China, and subsequently to visit the Siamese Red Cross Society. Mr. de Gielgud will return direct to Paris, via America, after the close of the Conference.

**Missions** Señor LARROSA, Under Secretary-General, went to Madrid early in June to confer with the leaders of the Spanish Red Cross on general organization questions.

Dr. SAND, technical Counsellor, went to Brussels on June 4th, to attend the meeting of the International Committee of Social Work Schools, held under the chairmanship of Dr. Alice Salomon. On his return from Brussels, he proceeded to London where he presented a report to the British Hospital Conference on the organization of hospitals on the Continent, and attended a meeting of the British Anti-Tuberculosis Association.

M. PETERSEN, Director of the Relief Division, attended the IVth International Congress on First Aid and Life-Saving in Copengagen from June 11th to 17th, and was present at the demonstration organized by the Danish Red Cross for foreign Red Cross delegates in Copenhagen for the Congress.

# MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

## Florence Nightingale International Foundation

The Inaugural meeting which will be held on July 5th at 15 Manchester Square at 3 p.m. will be presided over by Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Provisional Committee. The meeting will be attended by the following delegates:

International Council of Nurses :

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D. B. E., R. R. C., S. R. N., President.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S. R. N., President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Miss Bergliot Larsson, President, Norwegian Nurses' Association.

League of Red Cross Societies :

Mlle L. Odier, International Red Cross Committee.

Marchesa di Targiani Giunti, Directress of Nursing Service, Italian Red Cross.

Mr. Ernest J. Swift, Secretary General, League of Red Cross Societies.

Mrs. A. Cecil Carter, A. R. R. C., Chief, Division of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies.

National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees :

The national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees will be represented by: M. Dronsart (Belgium), Mlle Eli Magnussen (Denmark), Mlle Venny Snellman (Finland), Mlles Chaptal and Lefebvre (France), Sir Arthur Stanley and Miss Musson (Great Britain), Miss Alice Reeves and Miss Grenham (Irish Free State), Miss Abram (India), Baroness van Hogendorp and Mlle Boeye (Netherlands), Dr. N. Paus (Norway), Dr. Orenstein (South Africa), Mlle Karin Elfverson (Sweden), Miss Mary M. Roberts and Mrs. de Wolf Clark (U. S. A.).

The meeting will be preceded by a luncheon given by Sir Arthur Stanley, and followed by a reception given by the House Committee of 15 Manchester Square.

The first meeting of the Committee of Management will be held on July 6th at 10 a.m. at 15 Manchester Square, and will be attended by representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Council of Nurses, the British Red Cross Society, the National Council of Nurses, Bedford College and the College of Nursing.

## Three New Nightingale Committees.

A National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee has recently been formed in Norway with five representatives of the Red Cross and five of the Norwegian Nurses' Association. Dr. Nikolai Paus, Vice-President of the Red Cross, is President.

A similar committee has been formed in Finland with four members of the Red Cross and four members of the Finnish Nurses' Association, with Miss Snellman as President of this Committee.

The most recently formed National Committee, that of Iceland, comprises representatives of the Red Cross and the Icelandic Nurses' Association, with Mrs. Sigridur Thorvaldsson as President.

The Swedish Nurses' Association has announced the formation of a National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee with Miss Elisabet Lind as Chairman.

The total number of National Committees is now 18.

## Finishing Course for Hospital Workers.

Supplementary details are now available regarding the second finishing course for hospital workers, announced in the March, 1934, issue of the Bulletin.

This course, like the previous one at Frankfort in 1932, is being organized by the International Hospital Association and will be held in Berne (Switzerland) from August 18th to 22nd next. Classes, followed by debates, will be given by specialists from different countries on the following subjects: hospital organization and construction; economies in administration; nursing; social service; spiritual factors; the rôle of the hospital in ante-natal protection, and in the campaign against tuberculosis and venereal disease; occupational therapy; the hospitalization of foreigners.

The course will be preceded by visits to hospitals in Basle, Zurich and Lucerne (August 15th to 18th), and will terminate at Dr. Rollier's clinic at Leysin on August 22nd. From August 23rd to 28th, an excursion will be arranged to the principal curative establishments of the Engadine. The cost of these excursions, including travel, hotel accommodation and full board, will be 90 Swiss francs for the first (Basle, Zurich, Lucerne), 150 Swiss francs for the trip to Leysin, and 150 Swiss Francs for the Engadine tour. Those taking part will be officially received by the Federal and cantonal authorities at each place visited.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Course, Obergrundstrasse 13, Lucerne, and remittances to the American Express Company, Löwenstrasse 6, Lucerne.

## International Council of Nurses.

The Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses, at its meetings held in Paris and Brussels in July 1933, decided upon the appointment of an Executive Secretary, and Princess Anna Schwarzenberg has recently been appointed to this post.

Princess Schwarzenberg was trained at the Rudolfinerhaus in Vienna, and during the session 1926-27 followed the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing organized by the League of Red Cross Societies at Bedford College (University of London) in conjunction with the College of Nursing.

After a year of study in the United States, where she took a Course in Hospital and Training School Administration at Teachers College, Columbia University, she returned to Austria where she has since held the post of Instructress at a School of Nursing at Graz.

## Representation at Tokyo

The Health Committee of the League of Nations has requested Dr. René Sand, Technical Counsellor of the League of Red Cross Societies, to represent it at the XVth International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo next October.

# BOOK REVIEWS

**The Hospital Manual of Operation**, by Warren P. Morrill. Lakeside Publishing Company, New York, 1934.

This manual gives a remarkably clear and succinct account of the organization of American hospitals —their construction, personnel, finances, and relations with the outside world. In it will be found useful hints on invalid feeding, hospital management, heating, lighting, cleaning, laundering, and protection against fire. Anyone wishing to gain a general idea of hospital organization and the multitudinous problems connected therewith, could not do better than to read this instructive little book.

**Eye Protection in Industry**, by Louis Resnik. National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 50 West 50th Street, New York. Publication No. 77. Price: 5 cents. Pp. 8.

We are informed, in this pamphlet, that eye accidents cost American industry fifty million dollars a year. There is only one way to prevent these losses, and to avoid the suffering caused by blindness, and that is to take proper precautions. With this end in view, a comprehensive questionnaire has been drawn up. An affirmative reply to all the questions contained in that document signifies that the industrial undertaking concerned has done all in its power for the safety of its workers' eyes. If such a questionnaire could be circulated on a wide scale, it would undoubtedly lead industrialists to perfect their system of defence against eye accidents.

**Accidents and Emergencies**: Their Signs, symptoms and 'First Aid' Treatment. An ideal memorizer and a quick reference, by A. T. Gooding. With preface by John Nicholson, M. A., M. B., Ch. B. Glas., and L. Maclean, L. R. C. P., L. R. C. S. Second Edition. London, John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, W. I.

In this little book the author has arranged his subjects in alphabetical order so that a person in need of first aid advice in a hurry can at once find what he wants. The subject matter has been taken from the authorized text-books of the St. John's Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society, and it is only in the arrangement of the book's contents that any originality can be claimed. On each page there are three vertical columns. The middle deals with the subject, whether it be a fracture or apoplexy. The column to the left is reserved for signs and symptoms, and the column to the right for treatment.

**Efficiency in First-Aid** (A Manual of Aids for Senior Students of First-Aid), by N. Corbet Fletcher, M. B., M. R. C. S., Third Edition. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd.

This manual is intended for senior students of first aid. It is concerned not so much with what to do but with why you do it. Short though it is, this book is a somewhat philosophical dissertation on the care of the injured, and the reader who is not in a great hurry to acquire the maximum of practical knowledge in the minimum of time will find, when he has reached the last page of this book, that it is educative in the broadest sense of the term.

**The British Empire Leprosy Association** (Indian Council) Annual Report 1933. Thakur Das and Sons, Delhi.

This Association, whose President is H. E. The Viceroy of India and whose Hon. Secretary is Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri, O. B. E., Assistant Secretary of the Indian Red Cross, has entered upon the tenth year of its existence. Its 1933 report records the Association's continued efforts to inform public opinion on the causation, prevention and treatment of leprosy. By means of numerous clinics and propaganda-treatment survey centres, closer contact has been established with the leper population of India, and leprosy is being less frequently concealed than in the past. The 17 Provincial Branches of the Association maintain over 700 clinics, besides numerous asylums and colonies. Surveys, scientific research, hygienic education and social work are prominent features of the Association's excellent record.

**Matériaux pour l'étude des Calamités**, published by the Geographical Society of Geneva, under the auspices of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. Summary of No. IV, Year 1933:

1. CHRONOLOGIE DES GRANDS ÉBOULEMENTS ALPINS DU DÉBUT DE L'ÈRE CHRÉTIENNE A NOS JOURS (Chronology of great alpine landslides, from the beginning of the Christian era to the present day), by F. Montandon.
   LES TREMBLEMENTS DE TERRE EN BULGARIE (Earthquakes in Bulgaria), by K.-P. Kiroff.
2. Facts and Documents : DES CHUTES DE GRÊLE DÉSASTREUSES EN BULGARIE DURANT LES DIX DERNIÈRES ANNÉES (Disastrous hailstorms in Bulgaria during the last decade), by Dr. P. Kozaroff. VERS UNE NOUVELLE VICTOIRE DE L'HOMME SUR LA NATURE (Towards a new triumph of man over nature). Earthquake-proof constructions. — The campaign against Fumes, etc., by TECHNICUS.
3. CHRONICLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION.
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY.


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